

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PHNOM 12113 101002Z

15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-11 COME-00

FEA-02 INT-08 DRC-01 /158 W
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P R 100855Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7652

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 12113

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, PFOR, CB, VS

SUBJECT: GKR REACTS TO MOUNTING LOCAL PRESS CRITICISM IN OIL
DRILLING DISPUTE

REF: PHNOM PENH 12112

1. ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER HOU HONG TOLD CHARGE SEPTEMBER 10 THAT MARSHAL LON NOL HAD ASKED HIM TO ARRANGE A PRESS CONFERENCE FOR THE PURPOSE OF DAMPENING DOWN PUBLIC EMOTIONS IN PHNOM PENH OVER THE OFFSHORE OIL DRILLING DISPUTE WITH SOUTH VIETNAM. HOU HONG SAID THAT IN HIS OPINION IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE TO HOLD SUCH A PRESS CONFERENCE BECAUSE WHATEVER THE GKR SAID TO CALM PUBLIC EMOTIONS MIGHT BE TWISTED BY THE KC IN THEIR PROPAGANDA TO CHARGE THAT THE GKR WAS KNUCKLING UNDER TO THE GVN. HOU HONG ADDED THAT THE GKR HAD NOT PUBLISHED THE NOTES IT HAS SENT TO THE GVN BECAUSE IT WISHED TO KEEP THESE EXCHANGES IN DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS, AND FURTHERMORE IT HAD CRITICIZED THE GVN FOR PUBLISHING ITS FIRST THREATENING NOTE TO THE GKR.

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PAGE 02 PHNOM 12113 101002Z

2. HOU HONG SAID HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR

THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION TO CALL IN THE LOCAL PRESS
AND GIVE THEM A BACKGROUND BRIEFING, WITHOUT ANY QUO-
TATIONS FOR ATTRIBUTION, FOR THE PURPOSE OF STIMULAT-
ING LESS INFLAMMATORY COVERAGE OF THIS ISSUE IN THE
DOMESTIC PRESS. CHARGE TOLD HOU HONG THAT IN HIS
OPINION THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION BACKGROUNDER
WOULD ACCOMPLISH THE OBJECTIVE BETTER THAN A FORMAL
PRESS CONFERENCE. HOU HONG SAID THAT HE WOULD TELL
THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION TO STRESS THE THEME
THAT WHILE THE GKR WOULD NOT ACCEPT THE ULTIMATUM FROM
THE GVN, IT WISHED TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE PEACEFULLY
THROUGH DIPLOMATIC NEGOTIATIONS.
KEELEY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM, OFFSHORE DRILLING, DISPUTES, PRESS COMMENTS, ISLAND CLAIMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: kelleyw0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PHNOM12113
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740251-0431
From: PHNOM PENH
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740959/aaaabygg.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: PHNOM PENH 12112
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 APR 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <12 MAR 2003 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GKR REACTS TO MOUNTING LOCAL PRESS CRITICISM IN OIL DRILLING DISPUTE
TAGS: PBOR, PFOR, CB, VS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005